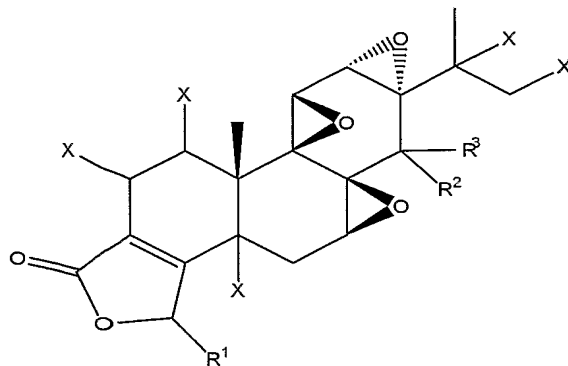


IT IS CLAIMED:

1. A compound having the structure I:

**I**

where

R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, arylalkyl, aryl, arylacyl, or $C(OH)R^4R^5$,

wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, or cycloalkenyl, any of which, excepting hydrogen, may be substituted with alkoxy, hydroxy, acyloxy, or aryl;

CR^2R^3 is $CHOH$ or $C=O$; and

at most one of the groups X is hydroxyl, and the remaining groups X are hydrogen.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein CR^2R^3 is $CHOH$.

3. The compound of claim 2, wherein CR^2R^3 is $CHOH$ (β -hydroxy).

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein each X is hydrogen.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein each said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, and acyloxy includes at most four carbon atoms, each said cycloalkyl and cycloalkenyl includes at most six carbon atoms, and each said aryl is monocyclic and non-heterocyclic.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein R^1 is alkyl, alkenyl or $C(OH)R^4R^5$.

7. The compound of claim 6, wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently hydrogen, alkyl or alkenyl.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl.

9. The compound of claim 9, wherein R^1 is C_1 - C_3 alkyl or hydroxyalkyl.

10. The compound of claim 10, wherein R^1 is methyl.

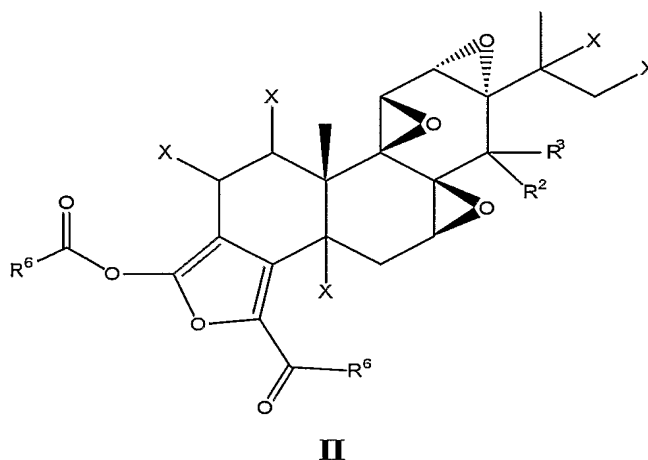
5 11. The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is arylacyl.

12. The compound of claim 11, wherein R^1 is benzoyl ($C(O)C_6H_5$).

13. The compound of claim 4, wherein R^1 is benzoyl.

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14. A compound having the structure **II**:



15 where

each R^6 is independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or aryl;

CR^2R^3 is $CHOH$ or $C=O$;

at most one of the groups X is hydroxyl, and the remaining groups X are hydrogen.

20 15. The compound of claim 14, wherein CR^2R^3 is $CHOH$.

16. The compound of claim 15, wherein CR^2R^3 is $CHOH$ (β -hydroxy).

17. The compound of claim 14, wherein each X is hydrogen.

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18. The compound of claim 14, wherein each said alkyl, alkenyl, and alkynyl includes at most four carbon atoms, and each said aryl is monocyclic and non-heterocyclic.

19. The compound of claim 14, wherein each R⁶ is aryl.

20. The compound of claim 19, wherein each R⁶ is phenyl.

5 21. A method of effecting immunosuppression, comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment, in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or claim 14.

22. A method of inducing apoptosis in a cell, comprising contacting said cell with an
10 effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or claim 14.

23. Use of a compound of claim 1 or claim 14, in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, for effecting immunosuppression in a subject, by administering an effective amount of said compound to said subject.

15 24. Use of a compound of claim 1 or claim 14 for inducing apoptosis in a cell, by contacting said cell with an effective amount of said compound.